

REMARKS

Claims 16-25 remain in this application. Claims 1-15 and 26-30 have been withdrawn as requested without prejudice to the underlying subject matter in response to the restriction requirement of a previous Office Action (Paper No. 4). Claims 20, 21 and 24 have been amended to clarify the embodiments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claims 16-18, 20-22 and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,532,538 (Cronk) in view of USPN 5,835,735 (Mason). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 16-18, 20-22 and 24-25 are each generally directed to provisioning a plurality of servers with different operating systems (OS). As recited in independent claim 16, for example, a request to load an OS may be received from each of a plurality of server blades. An identifier for each server blade may be used to retrieve an OS for each server blade. Each server blade may be loaded with its retrieved OS. As recited in independent claim 21, for example, a server blade may request an OS from a storage blade storing a plurality of OS. The storage blade may retrieve and send the OS to the server blade for execution. In this manner, the number of storage systems needed to provision the server blades of a modular server system may be reduced. Specification, Page 4, Lines 12-15. At least these features are not disclosed by the references cited in the Office Action, either alone or in combination.

Cronk describes a computer system having a disk drive with multiple partitions, with each partition having a different OS. Multiple computers may access a specific partition on the

hard drive, and execute its OS from the partition. In other words, the multiple computers use the hard drive as a shared resource. As clearly stated in Cronk, "by using different reservation IDs and different partitions on a shared disk drive, different computers can simultaneously run different operating systems from the shared disk drive." Cronk, Col. 5, Lines 34-37 (Emphasis Added). As reiterated later in Cronk, "it is possible to have multiple operating system running on different machines from the same system resource at the same time." Cronk, Col. 6, Lines 61-64.

Mason describes a picture archival and control system (PACS). More particularly, Mason describes a technique that negotiates compatible functionality between applications in a PACS environment. For example, two applications such as a requesting and responding application may determine those functionalities within the capabilities of both applications. Mason, Col. 2, Lines 3-8. FIG. 1 of Mason illustrates a conventional computer system comprising a plurality of cards in a computer. The cards shown include an Ethernet card, a serial card and a dome imaging card.

Applicant submits that claims 16-18, 20-22 and 24-25 are patentable over Cronk in view of Mason. As admitted in the Office Action, Cronk is not directed to a modular server system in general or server blades in particular. The Office Action states that the missing server blade element is described in Mason. Mason, however, discloses conventional line cards and not server blades. Therefore the combination of Cronk and Mason would still fail to disclose all the elements of the claimed embodiments.

Further, the Cronk system uses a single partitioned hard drive as a shared hard drive for

use by multiple computers to simultaneously execute different operating systems. By way of contrast, in the claimed embodiments a plurality of server blades may retrieve an OS from a common storage system, and execute the OS from its own system resources, e.g., memory or a hard drive. The storage system is not a shared resource used to execute its OS as described in Cronk.

In addition to failing to disclose all the features of the claimed embodiments, there is no identified teaching, suggestion or motivation in any of the cited references to combine the cited references to arrive at the claimed embodiments. As is well understood, at least one of the cited references must provide the requisite teaching, suggestion or motivation, rather than using the claimed embodiments in hind sight. Further, the Cronk system is directed to a shared hard drive system, while the Mason system is directed to a specialized PACS system used for medical applications. Integrating the disclosed features of these two systems from unrelated fields would require undue experimentation in any attempt to arrive at the claimed invention.

For at least the reasons give above, Applicant submits that claims 16-18, 20-22 and 24-25 represent patentable subject matter over Cronk in view of Mason. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cronk in view of Mason, and further in view of USPN 6,536,669 (Memmont). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Applicant submits that claims 19 and 23 are patentable over Cronk in view of Mason and Memmont for at least the same reasons given previously for claims 16-18, 20-22 and 24-25.

Further, there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine the Cronk system with the Mason system, let alone that of the techniques disclosed in Memmont. Moreover, the mere fact that three references are needed is evidence of the complexity of the claimed embodiments, and hence non-obviousness. Integrating the disclosed features of two systems would be difficult, and each added reference would increase this level of difficulty to the level of undue experimentation. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

It is believed that claims 16-25 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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